



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,650	09/08/2003	Larry J. Pacey	47079-00134USPT	2836
70243	7590	07/09/2008	EXAMINER	
NIXON PEABODY LLP 161 N CLARK ST. 48TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60601-3213				HOEL, MATTHEW D
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3714				
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/09/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

EMULQUIN@NIXONPEABODY.COM

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/657,650	PACEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Matthew D. Hoel	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/31/2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 30-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 30-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 30 to 34, 38, 39, 40 to 44, 48, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being obvious over Travis, et al. (U.S. patent 5,380,007 A) in view of Schlottmann, et al. (U.S. patent 6,824,467 B2).

4. As to Claims 30 and 40: '007 discloses all of the limitations of Claims 30 and 40 but lacks specificity as to the predetermined outcome probability distribution. '007 teaches a method of operating a gaming system comprising: storing simulation rule data and physical object data (7:64-8:34), the physical object data defining physical objects (ball locations, for example, 8:5-6), the simulation rule data defining rules of a simulated world that affect the physical objects (motion equations, 8:5, air speed, 8:11-12);

accepting a wager to play a wagering game (coin slot, Fig. 1); based on the physical object data and the simulation rule data, simulating actions of the physical objects within the simulated world to randomly select a simulated outcome from a plurality of possible simulated outcomes according to a predetermined outcome probability distribution (bouncing balls drawn to form game outcome or combination of winning numbers, Abst., Fig. 1); graphically rendering the actions and the simulated outcome; and providing an award if the selected simulated outcome represents a winning condition (Abst., Figs. 1, 6, 8). '007 has a wager input device and a display (Fig. 1). As an electronic gaming apparatus, '007 will inherently have memory and a controller. '467, however, teaches a predetermined probability distribution of the plurality of possible simulated outcomes being defined by the interaction of the physical object data and the simulation rule data (Abst.). The physical object data are taught in 6:3-12). The simulation rule data are taught in the simulation of quantities such as inclination of play field, friction, shape, size, resiliency, trajectory, velocity, spin, etc. (5:17-42). Because of the possibility of trillions (6:17) or more possible routes for the ball to take, a Monte Carlo analysis is done of all the possible outcomes to assign them a probability (Col. 6) to relieve the burden of evaluating all of the possibilities during game play which would slow down the game. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied the predetermined distribution of '467 to the game of '007. '467 teaches the possibility of doing these calculations for games involving balls colliding with each other (15:34-60), which is exactly the type of game of '007 (Abst.). The advantage of this modification would be to make the simulation more

random by using a simulation of the actual motion to generate the random result (each collision of pachinko ball in Figs. 11 & 13 being a separate random event as the pachinko ball goes down the field of play, '467) instead of merely selecting a random number to determine the outcome of the simulation as is done in '007 (5:20-24).

5. As to Claims 31 and 41: The simulating and the rendering occur simultaneously such that the actions and the simulated outcome are rendered in real time (motion calculations and ball display done iteratively screen by screen, Fig. 8).

6. As to Claims 32 and 42: The simulating occurs prior to the rendering such that the simulated outcome is selected prior to being rendered (non-mathematical means of generating simulated tumble of balls, by obtaining next symbol positions from memory instead of calculating them mathematically, 8:37-50). This is analogous to the previously cited Siekierski, et al. in 4,527,798 A using a random number generator to select a random previously recorded horse race (Col. 6, Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 15, Line 10).

7. As to Claims 33 and 43: '007 further teaches randomly modifying the simulation rule data such that pre-defined organizations of the physical objects provide different ones of the simulated outcomes (non-mathematical means of generating simulated tumble of balls, by obtaining next symbol positions from memory instead of calculating them mathematically, 8:37-50). This is analogous to the previously cited Siekierski, et al. in 4,527,798 A using a random number generator to select a random previously recorded horse race (Col. 6, Col. 13, Line 60 to Col. 15, Line 10).

8. As to Claims 34 and 44: '007 further teaches modifying the simulation rule data by bounds to control the possible simulated outcomes (7:42-60, adjusting play percentage variables to comply with statutorily required payouts).

9. As to Claims 38 and 38: The simulating commences from a randomly chosen initial condition (balls allowed to tumble for random time period (7:5-11). The examiner notes that the claim language does not cite a random initial arrangement of cards in a deck to be shuffled, a random physical arrangement of balls to be tumbled as in the ball-tumbling game of '007, or a random number generator seed being randomly selected such as based on ambient weather, thermal noise, etc.

10. As to Claims 39 and 49: The simulating includes influencing the actions with a random variable (numbers randomly generated, 7:24-40, the examiner notes that the claim language does not cite a random number generator seed being randomly selected such as based on ambient weather, thermal noise, etc.).

11. As to Claim 50: Claim 50 is rejected for similar reasons to Claim 30, in that it is a computer-readable medium drawn to the method of Claim 30. The examiner notes that Claim 50 is a separate independent claim as it is drawn to a separate statutory class of subject matter.

12. Claims 36, 37, 46, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '007 and '467 in view of Morris, et al. (U.S. patent 5,324,035 A).

13. As to Claims 37 and 47: The combination of '007 and '467 discloses all of the limitations of Claims 37 and 47, but lacks specificity as to the simulated outcome being

selected prior to being rendered. '007 teaches the simulating and the rendering occurring in part simultaneously (Fig. 8). '035, however, teaches the simulated outcome being selected prior to being rendered (Abst.; 2:35-3:27, pools of predetermined outcomes for video lottery terminals). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have applied the predetermined pools of '035 (which is disclosed in its main embodiment to video lottery systems) to combination of '007 and '467. 5:35-40 of '035 describes the system being applied to various other types of lottery games besides video lotteries, such as slots, craps, and roulette. Each of these games involves the random motion of a physical object (random stopping of slot reels, dice, or roulette wheels, respectively), analogous to 007's random stopping of tumbling lottery balls; this demonstrates the applicability of '035's predetermined pools of outcomes to gambling games based on random motion of physical objects. The advantage of this modification would be to provide central determination of the lottery numbers ('035, Abst.) to lend security to the gaming device, and to allow use of the video lottery system in jurisdictions which do not allow the use of random number generators within the gaming devices themselves.

14. As to Claims 36 and 46: '035 further teaches the simulation rule data including common rule data applicable to different types of wagering games such that the 3D processor need not be updated with the common rule data for the different types of wagering games (the pools of outcomes can be applied to any number of types of games, 5:35-40).

15. Claims 35 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '007, '467, and '035 in view of Vincent (U.S. pre-grant publication 2004/0015953 A1, application 09/811,977).

16. As to Claims 35 and 45: The combination of '007, '467, and '035 teaches all of the limitations of Claim 35, but lacks specificity as to the simulating and the rendering being performed by a 3D processor that receives the simulation rule data and the physical object data from a central processor. Vincent, however, in U.S. pre-grant publication 2004/0015953 A1, teaches three-dimensional graphics software being updated over a network when a new version is available. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have made this modification to the combination of '007, '467, and '035. The suggestion for 3-D graphics can be found in the previously cited "Physics for Game Developers" ("3D Particle Kinematics," Pages 33 to 43, by David M. Bourg, 2002 O'Reilly and Associates, Inc., hereafter referred to as "Physics", entered as non-patent literature by the examiner on Nov. 1st, 2006) which elaborates on the mathematical models already taught by '007 (7:64-8:34). The advantage of the 3-D graphics would be to make the visual display more realistic as actual lottery balls used in real life are three—dimensional objects. This also takes advantage of the network of '035 which is already used to distribute the gaming result pools to the client terminals. This modification would have the advantage and effect of allowing the latest software to be downloaded to the gaming terminals as soon as it becomes available. This would have the further advantage of allowing the client terminals to play any of the games

listed in '035 (5:35-40, blackjack, poker, slots, roulette, etc.) without being manually reconfigured and to adapt to changing gaming regulations as soon as they take effect.

Response to Arguments

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 30 to 50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents 6,666,766 B2 and 7,169,044 B2 teach IGT's pachinko implementation of their '467 probability distributions. U.S. patent 5,263,715 A teaches collisions between dice and walls using simulation rule data and physical object data to obtain a random result (Fig. 10).

19. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

20. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Hoel whose telephone number is (571) 272-5961. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri., 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

22. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

23. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew D. Hoel
Patent Examiner
AU 3714

/Robert E. Pezzuto/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714

/M. D. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714